

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRN, XN, WMO

SUBJ: WMO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON METEOROLOGICAL

ASPECTS OF US TERMINATION ICAO NAOS AGREEMENT

1. ON REQUEST OF UK AND NETHERLANDS METEOROLOGICAL DIRECTORS, WMO INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES CONCERNED PLUS USA AND CANADA TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON AFFECT US WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ITS SHIPS FROM NAOS PROGRAM BY JULY 1974. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WEATHER SERVICES OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS ON APRIL 3 AND 4 AT THE ICAO EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE IN PARIS: BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRG, FRANCE, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UK, US.

2. THE MEETING DISCUSSED SUCH THINGS AS THE PRESENT SITUATION OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE OBSERVATIONS AND THEIR AVAILABILITY TO EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL CENTERS; THE NEED FOR CONVENTIONAL WEATHER OBSERVATION FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC; THE AFFECT OF US TERMINATION ON THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS PROPOSED BY SEVENTH NAOS CONFERENCE FOR CONCLUDING THE PRESENT NAOS AGREEMENT AND REPLACING IT BY NEW AGREEMENT IN JULY 1975.

3. THERE WAS SHARP CRITICISM OF US ACTION TO TERMINATE PARTICULARLY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN REACHED UNANIMOUSLY ONLY A YEAR BEFORE. METEOROLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THEY REGARDED DATA FROM OCEAN STATION NETWORKS AS INDISPENSABLE FOR MAKING A RELIABLE WEATHER ANALYSIS AND FORECASTS FOR AVIATION OVER NORTH ATLANTIC AS WELL AS FOR EUROPEAN LAND AREAS. THE CHARACTER OF THE US ACTION WOULD, THEY BELIEVE, MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR SERVICES TO CONTINUE THE EUROPEAN PART OF THE NAOS PROGRAM. FEELING WAS EXPRESSED THAT FORMAL REPRESENTATION OF CONCERN OVER US ACTION MIGHT BE MOST USEFUL IF MADE THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, SINCE THE PRESENT MEETING HAD NO OFFICIAL STATUS. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY WOULD PRESS THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS TO DO THIS.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY STRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN GETTING METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA BUT SAID THAT THE TECHNIQUES FOR USING THESE DATA, WHICH WERE NON- SYNOPTIC IN TIME, HAD NOT BEEN SOLVED FOR COMPUTER ANALYSIS AND PREDICTION. IN ANY CASE, IT WAS CLEAR FROM THEIR LIMITED EXPERIENCE THAT CONVENTIONAL METEOROLOGICAL DATA, SUCH AS THAT TAKEN BY THE OCEAN WEATHER STATIONS WAS ESSENTIAL EVEN WITH METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA. FURTHER, HOURLY SURFACE OBSERVATIONS FROM THESE SHIPS WERE VITAL MEANS OF WARNING OF DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STORMS OVER THE ATLANTIC AREA. THEY ALSO POINTED TO THE LOSS OF UPPER WIND INFORMATION, WHICH IS NOW NOT REGULARLY AVAILABLE FOR THE WHOLE AREA OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC FROM SATELLITE OBSERVATIONS.

5. AT THE REQUEST OF SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS THE US REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST EUROPEAN METEOROLOGISTS IN BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH USES OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA NOW BEING DEVELOPED IN THE USA AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT A WORK SHOP ON THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BE ORGANIZED.

6. SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE FOR IMPROVING THE COMMUNICATION OF SATELLITE DATA TO EUROPE SO THAT THOSE PARTS RELATED TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COULD BE DISTRIBUTED ON PRIORITY BASIS IF DESIRED.

7. AS REGARDS THE MEETINGS PROPOSED BY THE SEVENTH NAOS CONFERENCE IT WAS FELT THAT THAT SCHEDULE WAS NOW UPSET BY THE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE USA. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE US PROPOSAL TO ICAO TO PROCEED WITH AN EARLY CONFERENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE NAOS WOULD BE ACCEPTED. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE

IMPORTANT FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL WMO TO ARRANGE FOR
CONVENING THE PLANNING MEETING PROPOSED IN RECOMMENDATION 2
OF THE SEVENTH NAOS CONFERENCE AT AN EARLY DATE. THE DATES
30 MAY TO 1 JUNE 1973 WERE SUGGESTED. EVALUATION OF VARIOUS
POSSIBILITIES FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC OBSERVING SYSTEM WOULD
BE REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR USE BY THE PROPOSED PLANNING
MEETING. RIMESTAD

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